

Serial No.: 10/010,731 Confirmation No.: 4312 Applicant: Jihong Liang et al.

Atty. Ref.: 11899.0193.DVUS02

REMARKS:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 15-17, 25, 28-29, and 33 are amended; claims 27 and 30 are cancelled without prejudice; claim 34 is added, and claims 15-17, 25-26, 28-29, and 33-34 are pending following entry of this Preliminary Amendment. The above noted amendments to the claims have been made so that the scope and language of the claims is more precise and clear in defining what the Applicants consider to be their invention. Specifically, 15-17, 25, and 31 have been amended and no longer depend on un-elected claims; and claims 28-29 have been amended, and claim 34 added, to more clearly claim the applicants' invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is introduced by the proposed amendments to the claims. Support for claim 34 may be found in the specification, for instance at page 6, line 26, to page 7, line 1; page 13, line 26, to page 14, line 1; and page 17, line 26, to page 18, line 4.

The claims and amended claims are believed to be distinct and patentable over the art of record and therefore applicants respectfully request their entry and allowance by the Examiner.

The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 01-2508, referencing Order No. 11899.0193.DVUS02.



Serial No.: 10/010,731 Confirmation No.: 4312 Applicant: Jihong Liang et al. Atty. Ref.: 11899.0193.DVUS02

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, the Examiner should directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Darrell G. Dotson Reg. No. 44,661

Attorney for Assignee

MONSANTO TECHNOLOGY LLC

HOWREY SIMON ARNOLD & WHITE, LLP 750 Bering Drive Houston, Texas 77057-2198

(713) 787-1400 Telephone (713) 787-1440 Facsimile

Date: